

From: Michael Bowen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:19pm
Subject: the proposed settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft

Greetings,

I would like to comment on the proposed settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft.

The proposed settlement does not adequately address the damage that Microsoft has done to the computing industry. For example, the definition of an API is too narrow. In order for there to be a level playing field, all of APIs of the Windows operating system must be completely documented. This way, Microsoft will not have an unfair advantage over third party vendors who wish to write applications.

The settlement also fails to address file formats. It is very important that Microsoft releases information about its currently undocumented file formats (like word documents ".doc"). Microsoft has an unfair advantage over third party vendors when writing office software because these vendors can only guess when it comes to reading or writing word documents, excel spreadsheets, and others.

I feel that the settlement should be reworked, so that it will prevent Microsoft from engaging in any more monopoly practices.

Thank you,
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